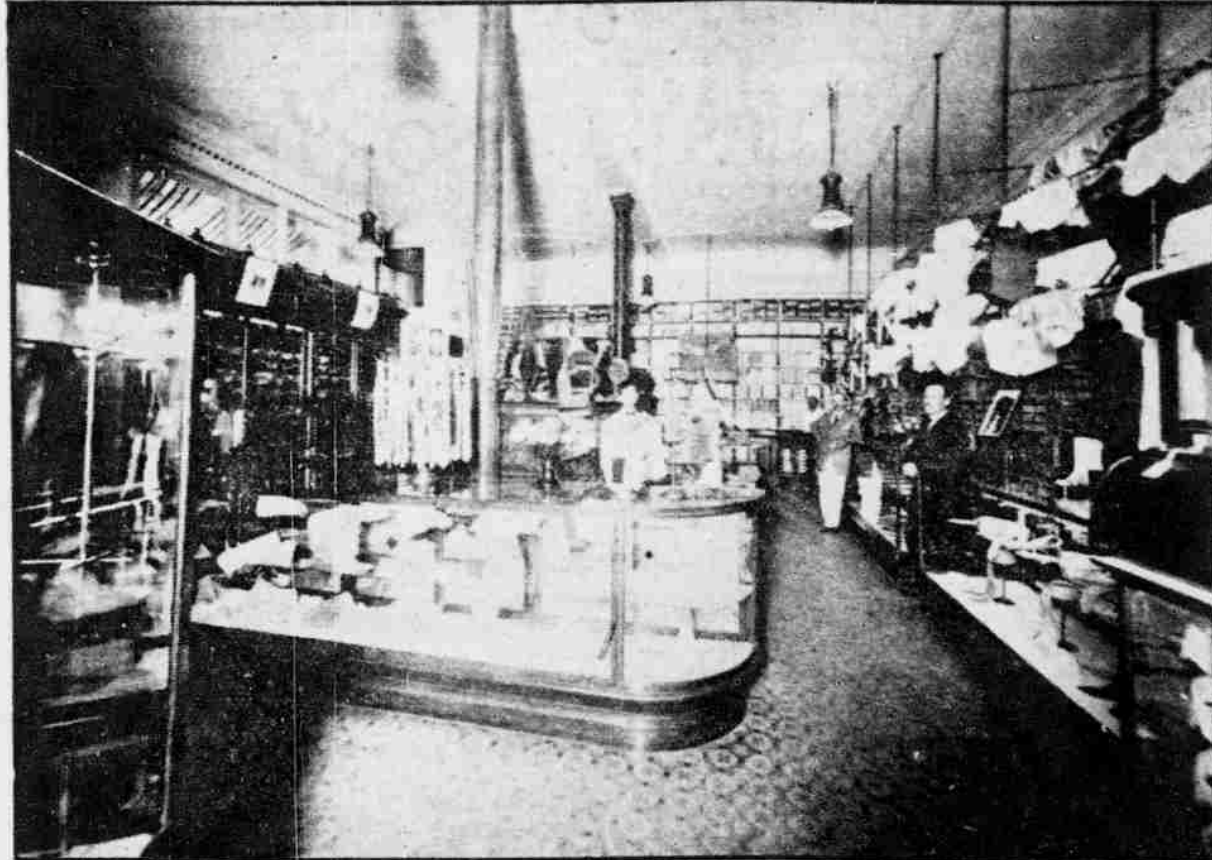


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## IMPORTANCE OF PEARL HARBOR

Secretary of the Navy Meyer Says It Can Not Be Over-Estimated.

The importance and strategic value of the Pearl Harbor naval base, in the opinion of Secretary of the Navy Meyer, can hardly be overestimated. In his report for the fiscal year of 1909, Secretary Meyer says: "Owing to the changed conditions, the past differences of opinion in regard to the establishment of a naval base in the Philippine Islands have been entirely overcome. The joint board has recently considered this important matter, including the whole strategic field of the Pacific, and has made a report recommending that we maintain a small docking and repair station at Olongapo, in the Philippine Islands, but that our main naval base in the Pacific Ocean should be established at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii."

"This definitely disposes of any contention as to the locality for a repair station in the Philippines, and enables us to concentrate effort on the building up of the naval base at Pearl Harbor and of the necessary defenses in connection therewith. "The joint board gave close attention to the various plans presented for establishing a naval station in Manila Bay, but finally decided that no location presented had the necessary natural advantages; that while a few could be made into suitable naval bases at great expense, the changed conditions in the Pacific made such expense unnecessary and undesirable. It was found that Olongapo was ideally situated, as far as natural advantages go, and that in confining its facilities to the use of the floating dock and small repair shops, its defense would not become one of serious moment."

"The department desires to invite your favorable attention to the extreme desirability of developing the naval station partly established at Guantanamo, Cuba. Certain facilities exist there, and a drydock has been partly excavated, but funds are lacking to continue the building up of this important insular station."

"With the opening of the Panama Canal, the Caribbean Sea will become the scene of great commercial activity, and our responsibility as to the police and maintenance of the canal and our interest in the whole Caribbean region

urgently call for an adequate naval repair base in that locality."

"The naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, has been started under favorable appropriations and conditions, and it is hoped that the building up of this important station can be rapidly and economically carried on. Its importance and strategic value can hardly be overestimated."

## ENGLISH BIRDS ARE UNWELCOME VISITORS

Uncle Sam has found the beautiful English starling which he imported from England some time ago, with the hope that it would be a good friend to the fruit growers of this country, not the helpful little visitor that he had expected, but, instead, rather a naughty little bird with a particularly strong passion for indulging in fruit on its own account.

About twelve years ago the starling was introduced from England, several pairs being placed in Central Park, New York. The numbers have increased so enormously since then that in some parts of the east, especially in Staten Island, they are more numerous than the native birds. They were originally brought to this country by the United States government to help the wren, the sparrow and the chickadee and other feathered friends of the farmer to rid orchards and forests of destructive insects. With the increase in numbers of the starlings, however, has come the discovery that they have wholesale appetites for the succulent fruits of late fall, nor have they shown any reluctance to indulge these appetites at the expense of the orchards. Another and a worse crime that is charged against them is their bloodthirsty tendency in relation to their fellow-birds, attacking other birds in their search for food and destroying large numbers of the weaker ones.

As yet the starling is not generally known in most sections of the United States. It is about the size of the robin and it is supposed to have gained its name from the starlike yellow spots on its dark plumage. It is seen mostly in the late fall and winter and seems to be as impervious to cold as its fellow-visitor from England, the sparrow. Its note is a sharp whistle precisely like that made by a human being. In the tradition of the starling it is said to have been taught to talk like the crow.—Portland Oregonian.

The Utah Supreme Court holds that interference with religious services by the noises incident to the rightful operation of a railroad and train yards near a church without any interference with the church property, does not give the religious society a right of action for damages against the railroad company. The fact that the degree of annoyance to the worshipping congregation might be greater than the annoyance would be to a home from the same cause is held to create no right to damages in favor of the church.

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